

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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**Puyallup transmission firm charged with felony theft of sales tax**

**Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 31, 2001**— The owner of Rayman Northwest Transmission in Puyallup was charged today with stealing \$110,442 in sales taxes collected on automotive transmission repairs performed from 1997 to 2000.

The State Attorney General's Office, in cooperation with the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, charged Irvin L. Anderson, 45, with 24 counts of first-degree theft and two counts of second-degree theft for failing to remit sales tax trust funds to the Washington State Department of Revenue. First-degree theft is subject to a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and/or a \$20,000 fine.

According to charging papers filed in Pierce County Superior Court today, Anderson intentionally failed to file tax returns and repeatedly ignored telephone and written inquiries from the Department of Revenue regarding his tax status. The transmission repair shop is located at 1134 East Main Street in Puyallup.

The Department referred the case to the Criminal Justice Division of the Attorney General's Office, which interviewed Anderson as part of its investigation. According to the charging papers, Anderson told investigators that he was aware that retail sales taxes are trust funds that need to be paid to the State of Washington on a continuing basis, and his failure to remit those taxes was "a major screw-up."

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